

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for treating retinal and/or optic nerve head damage which comprises administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of Activity Dependent Neurotrophic Factor-9 (ADNF-9), ADNF-14, an ADNF peptidomimetic, an ADNF small molecule analogue, an agent that upregulates endogenous ADNF, and an expression vector that induces ADNF expression.

Claim 2 (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is ADNF-9.

Claim 3 (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is ADNF-14.

Claim 4 (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is administered by topical administration, ocular injection, implantation of a slow release device, bolus, or encapsulated cells which secretes the compound.

Claim 5 (new) The method of claim 4, wherein the compound is administered by ocular injection.

Claim 6 (new) The method of claim 5, wherein the compound is administered by intraocular injection.

Claim 7 (new) The method of claim 5, wherein the compound is administered by periocular injection.

Claim 8 (new) A method for decreasing retinal ganglion cell death, said method comprising administering a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of ADNF-9, ADNF-14, an ADNF peptidomimetic, an ADNF small molecule analogue, an agent that upregulates endogenous ADNF, and an expression vector that induces ADNF expression.

Claim 9 (new) The method of claim 8, wherein the compound is ADNF-9.

Claim 10 (new) The method of claim 8, wherein the compound is ADNF-14.

Claim 11 (new) The method of claim 8, wherein the compound is administered by topical administration, ocular injection, implantation of a slow release device, bolus, or encapsulated cells which secretes the compound.

Claim 12 (new) The method of claim 11, wherein the compound is administered by ocular injection.

Claim 13 (new) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound is administered by intraocular injection.

Claim 14 (new) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound is administered by periocular injection.